

KEY CONCEPT 2.2: THE DEVELOPMENT OF STATES & EMPIRES

NOW YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON THE POLITICS OF THESE CIVILIZATIONS:
(THERE IS WAY TOO MUCH INFO TO GO OVER **IN REVIEW** SO, HERE IS A BASIC GUIDE TO THE POLITICS OF THESE PLACES:

Persia

Achaemenid (550-330 BCE)

- Founded by Cyrus the Great
- Largest Empire in the World
- As % of Earth's population, it was the largest ever (44%)
- Zoroastrian religion
- Postal/Road System
- Conquered by Alexander

Parthian

(247 BCE-224 CE)

- Center of Trade
 - Located on Silk Road
- Defeated Roman Crassus
 - Often warred with Rome

Sassanid

(224-651 CE)

- Last Pre-Islamic Persian empire
- Considered a world power during this era along with Rome/Byzantine
- Peak of Pre-Islamic Persian culture
 - "Persian Renaissance"
- Heavily influenced Islam

CHINA

QIN

(221-206 BCE)

- Short Lived
 - 15 Years!
- Founder: Qin Shi Huangdi
 - Unified China
 - Legalist
 - Centralized Government
 - Started the Great Wall
- Huge influence in Chinese History (especially Han!)
- Ex. Eur. word for China

HAN

(206 BCE-220 CE)

- Golden Age of China
 - China's largest ethnic group today=Han
- Emperor Wu
 - Defeated the Xiongnu
- Silk Road
 - Started by Han
 - Linked to Europe
- Minted Coins, made paper, water clocks, seismograph
- Capital: Chang'an was the size of Rome
- Highly educated Bureaucr.

INDIA

MAURYAN

(322-185 BCE)

- Founder: Chandragupta Maurya (not Chandragupta)
 - Took advantage of disarray of Alexander the Great's retreat
- Largest Empire at the Time
- Grandson: Asoka Maurya
 - United Indian Subcontinent
 - Converted to Buddhism
 - Sent out missionaries
 - Rock Pillars, Stupas

GUPTAN

(320-600 CE)

- Golden Age of India
 - Peaceful era
 - Allowed for science & artistic endeavors
- Strong trade ties
- Earliest Indian Epics written during this era
- Concept of Zero, Heliocentricity, Chess, base 10 numerals, round Earth
- Highpoint of Sanskrit Lit.

MED.

PHOENICIAN

(1200-539 BCE)

- Maritime Trading Culture
- Spread the Alphabet
- City States

GREEK/HELLENISTIC

(740-146 BCE)

- Foundation of the West
- Architecture, Politics, Democracy, Philosophy, Drama, Science, Math, etc.
- Greco-Persian Wars
- Peloponnesian Wars
- Conquered by Alexander

ROME

(509 BCE-476 CE)

- Romulus & Remus...
- Conquered surrounding areas
- Monarchy, Republic, Empire
- Versus Carthage
- Augustus/Constantine
- Downfall

AMER.

MESO:

TEOTIHUACAN

(200-600 CE)

- NE of Mexico City today
- Largest Pre-Columbian city
- Architecture, Pottery, etc.

MESO:MAYAN

(250-900 CE)

- Only fully developed writing system in the New World
- Known for their Calendar
- Influenced the entire region
- Pyramid Architecture

ANDE: MOCHE

(100-700 CE)

- Northern Peru
- Known for Gold work, Architecture, and irrigation systems

COMMON ATTRIBUTES TO THESE CLASSICAL REGIMES:

ADMINISTRATION:

- Large Empires required advanced bureaucracies to administer them
- China
 - Early Civil Service system in both the Qin & Han
 - Meritocracy
- Rome
 - 12 Tables/Code of Justinian
- Administering an Empire
 - Diplomacy, supply lines, fortifications, roads, military recruitment

SOCIO-ECONOMIC:

- First Major Trade centers developed:
 - Ex. Persepolis, Athens, Chang'an, Rome, Constantinople, Teotihuacan
- Social hierarchies often based on occupation
 - Caste Systems
- Food production was paramount
 - Slavery was widespread
- Patriarchy reined
 - Worldwide; in all of the imperial societies

COLLAPSE

- Environmental Damage
 - Excessive use of natural resources led to damage to the surrounding environment
 - (Deforestation, Desertification, Erosion)
- External Problems
 - AKA Invaders; generally Nomadic
 - Han v. Xiongnu
 - Gupta v. White Huns
 - Romans v. Germans

There are many more reasons for this, but the AP only lists the above two.



FREEMAN-PEDIA